

ON BOARD

September 2010

BY - T H E - M I N U T E S R E P O R T

District receives energy stewardship award

For saving enough energy in one year to plant more than 20,219 trees, Commerce ISD was presented with The Award for Energy Stewardship from Energy Education during the September 20 board meeting.

The award recognizes the district's efforts to implement a plan to save taxpayer dollars and conserve energy.

Energy Education Specialist Kevin Shaw received specialized training to put the people-oriented program in place. He conducts energy audits to ensure that students and teachers are comfortable during class times and scheduled activities, and that energy is used only as necessary. He works to motivate everyone in the district to use energy wisely, keep classrooms comfortable and practice smart energy strategies.

Superintendent Blake Cooper congratulated

Shaw on the success of the program and thanked staff for cooperating with Shaw.

Board urges Legislature to 'Make Education a Priority'

The Board unanimously adopted a resolution to ask Texas legislators to put funding public schools in the forefront in legislative talks and action this session. The resolution states the possibility of the 2011 session being a repeat of the 2009 session where no reliable funding improvements surfaced. Educators are urging leaders to act to face the current economic challenges and the complexity of public school financing to protect the pursuit of quality education for all children.

Board approves salary increases

The Board approved a two percent salary increase for auxiliary employees and a three percent increase for non-teaching professionals during its regular September meeting. Teachers received a step raise.

Superintendent Cooper explained the Board looked at last year's raises when considering this year's. Last year, auxiliary workers received a three percent increase while administrators received one percent. The superintendent and the central office directors did not receive a raise last year. Teachers received \$800 plus a step raise.

"We were happy that the TRE (tax ratification election) passed so that raises could be considered this year. But still, our Board wanted to be prudent with the funds that were available. I believe they did a good job of being fair to everyone," Cooper said.

Raises go into effect September 1. Plans are to make up the missed September 15 raise amount in the September 30 check. On October 15, pay amounts will be stabilized through August 2011.



Kevin Shaw, left, and Superintendent Blake Cooper received The Award for Energy Stewardship from Energy Education representative Dr. Bruce Wood.



ON BOARD

BOARD MEETINGS

6:15 • 3315 Washington

2010

Monday October 18

Monday November 15

Thursday December 16

2011

Tuesday January 18

Monday February 21

Thursday March 24

Monday April 18

Monday May 16

Monday June 20

Monday July 18

In other action...

Baseball and softball scoreboards

The Board voted to purchase baseball and softball field scoreboards through the sale of advertising space on the scoreboards. The boards will be financed by Cypress Bank over 10 years. Guaranty Bond Bank, Hunt Regional Healthcare, Texas A&M University-Commerce and Texas A&M University-Commerce Athletic Department will pay out their \$5000 commitment over 10 years.

Equipment cleared for sale

The Board also declared leftover equipment from the old A. C. Williams Elementary School as surplus, making way for its sale. Cooper said Central office and Tri County SSA personnel salvaged items that could be used in offices in the renovated structure. Class sets of student desks will be stored for potential future use.

County extension agents named adjunct staff

The Board adopted a resolution recognizing Hunt County extension agents as adjunct staff members and recognizing 4-H as an extracurricular activity. This action allows students who participate in 4-H activities during the school day to be counted as being in attendance.

Deaf education arrangement extended

A shared serves arrangement agreement with the Greenville Regional Day School Program for the Deaf was approved. CISD currently has two students attending the school for hearing impaired.

Policy Update approved

TASB Policy Update 88 was approved with revisions to DH local which defines electronic media. The new policy says that employees shall be held to the same professional standards in their public use of electronic media as they are for any other public conduct. Administrators recommended deleting sections that define specific use of electronic media with students and offered plans to address those concerns through employee training and administrative guidelines.

